Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 CTME-00 OIC-02 /143 W

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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR STEWART

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (CTD)

REF: STATE 269861

- 1. SUMMARY: CTD MET NOV. 14 IN SPARSELY ATTENDED QUIET ONE-DAY SESSION. QUESTION OF IMPROVEMENT OF NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES CARRIED OVER TO NEXT MEETING. END SUMMARY.
- 2. WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS IN BANGKOK FOR MTN SEMINAR AND OTHERS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON THE COMMON FUND, THERE WERE MANY EMPTY SEATS AT THE 33RD SESSION OF THE CTD, SO THAT SHORT MEETING WAS RELATIVELY QUIET.
- 3. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PART IV SAW NO SPECIFIC CRITICISMS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PRACTICES. GENERAL TONE OF LDC COMMENTS WAS FEAR OVER GROWING PROTECTIONISM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTED IN MANY CASES AGAINST LDC EXPORTS. CITING RECENT STATEMENTS BY DG LONG, SEVERAL LDC'S BELIEVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NET MOVE TOWARD PROTECTIONISM DESPITE LIST OF LIBERALIZING MEASURES INCLUDED IN COMMITTEE'S DOCUMENTATION. STRONGEST STATEMENT WAS MADE BY MALAYSIA (FONG) WHICH POINTED TO INCREASING PROTECTIONISM AGAINST TEXTILES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL LDC EXPORTS AND

SAID THAT MALAYSIA WOULD USE EVERY OCCASION, INCLUDING UPCOMING SESSION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES, TO COMPLAIN.

- 4. PAKISTAN REP (HAMID), STILL SMARTING FROM FIGHT OVER BOP MINI-PROCEDURES AND OUR REQUEST FOR FULL BOP CON-SULTATIONS, ARGUED THAT DC'S ESCAPE SCRUTINY FOR THEIR TRADE ACTIONS WHILE LDC'S MUST UNDERGO EXAMINATION IN BOP COMMITTEE. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT A SPECIAL GROUP BE ESTABLISHED TO PERIODICALLY EXAMINE ACTIONS TAKEN BY DC'S, INCLUDING THOSE UNDER ARTICLE XIX. SEVERAL DC'S OUESTIONED NEED FOR SUCH A GROUP AND EC POINTED OUT THAT REASON MOST DC'S ACTIONS ARE NOT EXAMINED BY BOP COMMITTEE IS BECAUSE DC'S NO LONGER TAKE TRADE MEASURES FOR BOP REASONS. THE PROBLEM WAS THEREFORE NOT CAUSED BY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LDC'S BUT BY TODAY'S ECONOMIC FACTS. OTHERS TOLD PAKISTAN THAT IDEA MORE APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION IN CONTEXT OF MTN SUBGROUP ON SAFEGUARDS. IN VIEW OF OPPOSITION, CTD TOOK NO ACTION ON PAKISTANI PROPOSAL.
- 5. PICKING UP ON THEME OF INCREASED PROTECTIONISM, INDIAN DEL (HEMRAJANI) RECOMMENDED THAT CTD AT NEXT MEETING EXAMINE INCREASE IN PROTECTIONISM AGAINST LDC EXPORTS. HE ASKED SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE A PAPER LOOKING AT ACCESS TO DC MARKETS FOR LDC PRODUCTS. UNFOCUSED IDEA RECEIVED WIDE LDC SUPPORT WITH MALAYSIA SEEKING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARIAT OVERVIEW OF PROTECTIONIST TRENDS AND INDIA VISUALIZING A MORE PRODUCT (OR SECTOR) SPECIFIC STUDY. WE AND JAPANESE RAISED QUESTIONS AND SUCCEEDED IN GETTING PROPOSAL WATERED DOWN TO FIT WITHIN SECRETARIAT'S USUAL PREPARATION FOR CTD. WP REPORT STATES "TO FACILITATE SUCH A DISCUSSION (IE, PROBLEMS OF PROTECTIONISM), THE SECRETARIAT COULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A GENERAL PICTURE OF RECENT TRENDS IN THE TRADE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INCLUDING RELEVANT POLICY MEASURES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED AT THE COMMITTEE'S PRESENT SESSION."

6. ON NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES, SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT (COM.TD/W/260) SERVED AS BASIS FOR RENEWED PUSH BY LDC'S TO EXPAND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES. LDC'S WANTED DC'S TO NOTIFY TRADE RESTRICTIVE AS WELL AS TRADE LIBERALIZING MEASURES, EVEN IF TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ARE NOTIFIED ELSEWHERE (ARTICLE XIX, XII, ETC.) AND WANTED LIBERALIZING AND RESTRICTIVE MEASURES SHOWN SIDE BY SIDE IN DOCUMENTATION SO THAT THEY COULD ASCERTAIN THE NET EFFECT OF TRADE ACTIONS AFFECTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MOST LDC'S STRESSED NEED FOR DC'S TO STATE COMPELLING REASONS

WHY TRADE RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN AND WHY SPECIAL DISPENSATION HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED LDC'S EXPORTS. THEY ALSO ARGUED THAT NOTIFICATIONS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY STATISTICAL MATERIAL SHOWING IMPACT ON LDC TRADE AND THOUGHT SECRETARIAT COULD PLAY GREATER ROLE IN PROVIDING NECESSARY INFORMATION. MALAYSIA THOUGHT THAT SOME OF INFORMATION FROM DC COUNTRY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES DEALING WITH TRADE ACTIONS (E.G., ITC REPORTS OF INJURY INVESTIGATIONS) SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE.

7. WE MADE STATEMENT DRAWING ON POINTS REFTEL. OTHER DC'S (NORDICS, CANADA) STRESSED USEFULNESS OF REVERSE NOTIFICATIONS BY LDC'S AND MANY STATED EXISTING PROCEDURES WERE ADEQUATE BUT REQUIRED FULLER COMPLIANCE. SEVERAL THOUGHT QUESTION OF IMPROVING NOTIFICATIONS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNIQUE TO CTD AND REFERRED TO DISCUSSIONS IN MTN CONTEXT, POINTING OUT THAT COMMITTEE MIGHT WANT TO REVERT TO QUESTION AGAIN AFTER MTN CONCLUDED. ITEM WAS LEFT ON CTD AGENDA.

- 8. DISCUSSION ON MTN CONTAINED NO SUBSTANTIVE ARGUMENTS. LDC'S COMPLAINED OF DC BILATERALS AND LDC EXCLUSION FROM BACK ROOM DISCUSSIONS. MALAYSIA (FONG) SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR TARIFF HYPOTHESIS TO TAKE A CONCRETE FORM SO THAT LDC'S HAVE A STANDARD BY WHICH TO MEASURE THEIR REQUESTS. SEVERAL REFERENCES WERE MADE TO NEGOTIATIONS IN FRAMEWORK GROUP AND IMPORTANCE OF THEM FOR CHANGES IN PART IV SOUGHT BY LDC'S.
- 9. AGENDA ITEM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS RITUAL TESTIMONIAL FOR SECRETARIAT'S SUPPORT EFFORTS.
- 10. EXPANSION OF TRADE AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES --SEVERAL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES POINTED OUT THAT IN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CREASES IN TRADE UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIAL ALTHOUGH COVERAGE OF PREFERENTIAL SCHEME, BOTH IN NUMBERS OF COUNTRIES AND PRODUCTS, WAS SMALL. THEY URGED OTHER COUNTRIES TO JOIN PROTOCOL AND HOPED THAT TECHNICAL STUDIES GATT IS UNDERTAKING FOR OVER 40 COUNTRIES WILL CONVINCE THESE COUNTRIES TO ACCEDE TO PROTOCOL. SORENSON

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